

***Traffic Advisory Committee minutes for Thursday, March 3, 2005.***

In attendance: M.J. Frisoli, A. Masciari, T. Turner, P. Curro.

Absent: L. Nickens, T. Riley, T. Olson.

Also attending: G. Clancy, Anne Paulsen, Heli Tomford.

7:16 p.m. Meeting called to order

Administrative Matters: Minutes from February 3, 2005 were reviewed. Some confusion over the minutes was expressed; the minutes were tabled until this confusion could be corrected.

Marlboro/Unity/Oxford St. turn restriction will be reviewed. Many residents complained that there was insufficient notice prior to the previous hearing. Hearing to be held April 7, 2005.

Intersection improvement subcommittee will present its report at the April meeting.

TIP update. GC indicated that the RFP for a consultant to work on the Trapelo/Belmont corridor will be sent out soon.

(7:40 p.m.) Bright Rd. pavement management. Notices will be sent to Bright Rd. residents as well as limited abutters. A. Paulsen/ K. Tommfidd expressed concern on how previous road reconstruction has been designed. She cited Payson Rd. as an example of how designs favor vehicle speed over pedestrian/bicycle safety. MF described the current approach of the TAC to implement traffic calming when roadways are rebuilt, as opposed to retrofitting. GC addressed the changes to the design of Clifton/Prospect with regard to roadway width and compatibility with bicycles. He stated that the current process for Pavement Management will bring all road redesign before TAC for community review.

Various ideas were discussed for changes to the design of Bright Rd. The possibility of neck-downs placed on one side of Bright Rd. in conjunction with parking limited to the side where the roadway is narrowed was discussed. The width of the roadway may preclude the inclusion of a striped bicycle lane on both sides.

There was an extended and sometimes heated discussion regarding the process that TAC will adopt for this project. TT stated his belief that because the Chair resides on Bright Rd., she faces a conflict of interest that will compromise her role on the TAC. MF strenuously defended her ability to remain objective. GC remained neutral on the merits of the debate, but offered an opinion that it may be in the best interest of the Chair to recuse herself lest there be an appearance of self-interest influencing the project. The matter remained unresolved.

An alternative date for a March (March 24, 2005) meeting was set to hear final resident comments on Brighton/Blanchard/Grove St. in case City of Cambridge is ready with the final design plans. If the plans are not ready, the hearing will be held at our April 7 date.

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 p.m.